portion 20, and an opening 14 that has a tube 40 positioned therein. The housing assembly 12 also includes a pair of concentric solenoidal electromagnetic windings 27, 30 and a manual toggle lever 56. Either the lever 56 or the windings 27, 30 can move the tube 40 within the opening 14 to open and close the valve assembly 10.

1. Claim 21

Amended claim 21 requires and Brudnicki fails to disclose "the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid." Specifically, Brudnicki states:

> "Because the toggle always moves in unison with the tube, the lever 56 provides a visual indication of the position of the valve."
>
> Brudnicki, Col. 3, lines 49-51.

Therefore, the valve of Brudnicki does not move independent of the lever. As such, claim 21 and dependent claims 22-27 are not anticipated by Brudnicki.

2. Claim 40

Claim 40, like claim 21, requires "the position of the actuator being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid." For the reasons set forth above regarding claim 21, claim 40 is not anticipated by Brudnicki.

U.S. Patent No. 5,529,281 and U.S. Patent No. 5,487,493

Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brudnicki in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,487,493 to McNabb (hereinafter "McNabb"). Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21. In that claim 21 is believed allowable, claims 22-24 are also believed to be allowable.

Final Remarks

The applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance in its present form and respectfully requests that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course. The Examiner is asked to call the Applicant's attorney, Ryan C. Barker, at (317) 684-5295 to address any outstanding issues to further expedite the prosecution of this application for all parties.

If necessary, the Applicant requests that this Response be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. The Applicant requests that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this Response be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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461137

Attachment A

21. (Twice Amended) A valve assembly for a hospital bed including:

a manifold block having an inlet, an outlet configured to connect to a device for positioning the bed, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and with the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

a lever connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions, the lever being located entirely outside the conduit; and

a solenoid connected directly to the valve to move the valve between the first and second positions [independent of the lever] in response to an electrical input to the solenoid, the position of the lever being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid.

40. (Twice Amended) A valve assembly for a support device, including:

a manifold having an inlet, an outlet configured to connect to a device for positioning the support device, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

an actuator connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions, the actuator being located entirely outside the conduit; and

a solenoid connected directly to the valve to move the valve between the first and second positions [independent of the actuator] in response to an electrical input to the solenoid, the position of the actuator being independent of the presence of the electrical input to the solenoid.